DocDB: Usage and Enhancements

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Outline

Usage patterns

Suggestions for users

- ñ Keywords
- ñ Topics
- ñ File formats

Some "new"/optional features for "managers"

- ñ Preferences
- ñ E-mail notification
- ñ Meeting organizer

Usage Patterns

Since we've started using the DocDB (Dec. 2001) we've placed almost 2000 documents in the DocDB. (About 400 of these are "legacy" documents).

This is surprising to me considering that the original document database accumulated about 150 documents in a 6-year timeframe.

By and large, usage of the DocDB has been organized very well, but I have a few suggestions...

Keywords

Keywords added so groups could organize their documents

Few groups have done this, most people use keywords haphazardly

A keyword is only useful if it is used for related documents

It's OK to leave it blank

A new keyword chooser is coming (Lynn & me)

Let me show some examples of good and bad keywords...

Bad Keywords

RTES milestones in L1 Trigger WBS

Requested by: ███████

Updated by: ███████

Document #: BTeV-doc-███

Document type: [Talk](#)

Document Created: 16 Apr 2003, 13:46

Contents Revised: 23 Apr 2003, 11:04

DB Info Revised: 23 Apr 2003, 11:04

Authors:

- ███████

Abstract:

RTES milestones in L1 Trigger WBS

Keywords:

[RTES](#) [milestones](#) [in](#) [L1](#) [Trigger](#) [WBS](#)

Topics:

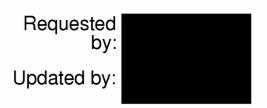- [Computing:Trigger - Level 1](#)

Files in Document:

- [RTES milestones in L1 Trigger WBS](#) (RTES milestones in L1 Trigger WBS.doc, 26.0 kB)

Retrieve archive of files as [tar.gz](#), [zip](#).

Restricted to:

- BTeV

Just a rehash of the title and abstract

Bad Keywords

Request for Quotation For BTeV-RICH Mirror System

Requested by: ████████

Updated by: ████████

Document #: BTeV-doc-████

Document type: [Note](#)

Document Created: 31 Jul 2003, 14:37

Contents Revised: 31 Jul 2003, 14:37

DB Info Revised: 31 Jul 2003, 14:37

Authors:

- ████████████████

Abstract:
    This is the request for quotation.

Keywords:
    [RICH](#) [detector](#)

Topics:

- [Detectors:RICH](#)

Files in Document:

- [BtevRICHMirrorSpec.pdf](#) (366.6 kB)
- [ps file](#) (BtevRICHMirrorSpec.ps, 3.2 MB)

Retrieve archive of files as [tar.gz](#), [zip](#).

Restricted to:

- BTeV

Spaces, keyword is same as topic: not useful

Good Keywords

Management Plan for the BTeV RICH task

Requested by: Marina Artuso

Updated by: Tomasz Skwarnicki

Document #: BTeV-doc-1192-v2

Document type: Note

Document Created: 25 Sep 2002, 11:50

Contents Revised: 30 Sep 2002, 15:40

DB Info Revised: 30 Sep 2002, 15:40

Authors:

- Marina Artuso

Topics:

- Detectors:RICH

Restricted to:

- BTeV
- Review

Abstract:
this document summarizes the planned management structure of the BTeV RICH task, as well as subprojects and deliverables.

Files in Document:

- rich-management.doc, word file (rich-management.doc, 43.0 kB)
- rich-management-p.pdf pdf file (rich-management.pdf, 20.0 kB)

Keywords:
temple2002 managementplan WBS1.3

Retrieve archive of files as tar.gz, zip.

Descriptive and unique

Topics

Topics are probably the most useful way to organize and find documents

- *Some* topics are being over-used, especially "BTeV General," which is for things about BTeV as a whole, like conference talks, proceedings, TDR, etc.

- Don't select something like WBS just because your talk says "We're working on the WBS"

- These things probably just get in the way of people finding the information they want

File Formats

Some documents exist only in MS Office format. This is bad for several reasons:

- Difficult/impossible for Unix/Linux users to read
- MS Office is often not compatible with itself (fonts)
- Want docs to last 10-20 years (think back to 1988)

PDF, HTML, etc. should be supplied as well

- We can look at solutions for people who don't have a PDF writer

Intermission

Ok, this concludes the "admonishment" part of the talk, but remember, I started out by saying that this is working out better than I thought it would.

Now I want to show some ways the DocDB can help our various sub-groups organize documents and meetings.

Some of these things aren't new, but people may not be aware of them.

Preferences

Database options:

- Create or change documents or metadata

- Search documents

- [Show] BTeV-doc-# [____] -v [__]

- List documents:
  - by author
  - by topic
  - modified in the last 20 days
  - by old number like BTeV-pub-year/xx from the old DocDB

  - from conferences
  - from group meetings
  - all documents

- Get instructions

- Set preferences

- Set E-mail notification

- Get statistics

ñ Will remember who you are

ñ Also various ways of entering authors, uploading files, etc.

E-mail Notification

Database options:

- [Create or change](#) documents or metadata

- [Search](#) documents

- Show BTeV-doc-# [ ] -v [ ]

- List documents:
    - by [author](#)
    - by [topic](#)
    - modified in the [last 20 days](#)
    - by old number like [BTeV-pub-year/xx](#) from the old DocDB
    - from [conferences](#)
    - from [group meetings](#)
    - [all documents](#)

- [Get instructions](#)

- [Set preferences](#)

- [Set E-mail notification](#)

- [Get statistics](#)

ñ Sends E-mail immediately, daily, or weekly

ñ Select documents by topic, author, keyword

ñ See what people are putting your name to...

Links to Scripts

Many of the scripts allow user supplied parameters

Canned searches of topics, authors, keywords

Versions or files as of a date.

Automatically add topics to documents to be entered

Most useful to organizers (e.g. link to Pixel documents on HDI)

Some currently undocumented; just ask

Meeting Organizer

Big recent addition, used to create agendas with links, etc.

Goal was something flexible enough to organize weekly straw meetings up to CDF/DØ style meetings with plenary, parallel sessions

Testing this meeting, will use next meeting

Next time you may be prompted to choose your talk from a list; otherwise will guess

Demo

Parts disabled during the meeting to avoid confusion

See

http://www-btev.fnal.gov/cgi-bin/DocDB/DisplayMeeting?conferenceid=93

Documentation available at

http://www-btev.fnal.gov/DocDB/Static/Restricted/MeetingOrganizer.shtml

Coming soon

A few bugs need fixing

- Can't move between sessions

- Overwrites are possible, important if many people modify

Will use this for next meeting

- Discussing with Joel, may have users enter talk requests via system rather than e-mail Joel

- Will select your talk from a list

Conclusions

BTeV's use of the DocDB is very good

- ñ More care with topics & keywords would make it even better

- ñ Please supply a PDF

There are parts of it that are underutilized, probably due to lack of exposure

Feedback on how to make it easier to use is always welcome

- ñ But, sometimes not feasible to implement